

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the communication mailed on February 8, 2005, Applicants provide the following remarks in an effort to address the issues presented by the Examiner. Applicants submit that this response adds no new matter to the application. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 4-12 have been amended and remain pending in the application. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice, as the material claimed therein has been inserted into claim 1. Claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration based on a previously filed election. Claim 15 has been added, which claims the material removed from claim 8.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Podiak (US 4,193,012). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Podiak differs from the claimed spark plug in that the silicon-talc sealing material 15 is not plastically deformable by compression. Furthermore, the sealing ring 15 does not rest against the insulator body according to the new feature now introduced into claim 1. Additionally, Podiak does not teach or disclose that high compressive strength can be imparted to a spark plug by incorporating a sealing ring that is plastically deformable by compression and is positioned to rest against the insulator body externally at the end of the insulator body, which in the fitted position of the spark plug, points to the combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or enable the claimed invention and, therefore, does not anticipate claims 1-3, 5-12 and 15. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely notification of allowance is courteously requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner is inclined to further reject any of the claims, Applicants requests that counsel be contacted to resolve any remaining issues. Reconsideration is requested and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



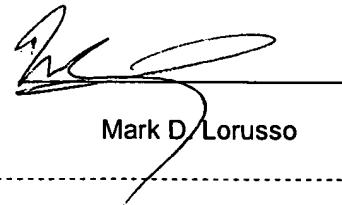
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I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response and any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 3, 2005.



Mark D. Lorusso